

## REPORT OF CASA OF NH

CASA of NH is a statewide, private and not-for-profit organization dedicated to recruiting, training and supervising volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in New Hampshire's courts. Children who come to the attention of the courts as a result of abuse or neglect are required by federal and state law to have a guardian ad litem (GAL). Since 1989, CASA volunteers have effectively filled this role and have become a powerful voice for over 7,000 of New Hampshire children. Volunteers have the support of a dedicated staff person to help guide them through the complexities of these cases.

In FYE 2008, CASA of NH was appointed statewide to 331 cases involving 526 children, of those 331 cases; 42 cases were open in Belknap County, involving 73 abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers help ensure that children's needs are met and services provided to facilitate safe reunification with biological families when possible. In cases where reunification cannot take place, the CASA volunteer works to ensure that another safe and permanent home is located.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and especially the children that we serve, please accept our sincere gratitude to the Town of Alton for including CASA of NH in the budget in the amount of \$500.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Vachon  
Director of Development  
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